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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Morocco and Sudan: revised draft resolution

Assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors

The General Assembly,

Having considered the note and the report of the Secretary-General, 1/ and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2/

Aware that the majority of the refugee population are children and women,

Bearing in mind that unaccompanied refugee minors are among the most vulnerable refugees and require special assistance and care,

Mindful of the fact that the ultimate solution to the plight of those unaccompanied minors is their reunification with their families,

Noting with satisfaction that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has developed revised Guidelines on Refugee Children, issued in May 1994,

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1/ A/49/411 and A/49/643.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 12 and addendum (A/49/12 and Add.1).

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to ensure the protection and assistance of refugees, including refugee children and unaccompanied minors,

Recalling the provisions concerning the protection of refugee minors of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 3/ and the 1951 Convention 4/ and the 1967 Protocol 5/ relating to the Status of Refugees,

1. Expresses its deep concern at the plight of unaccompanied refugee minors and the lack of transparency as to their number and whereabouts;

2. Calls upon all Governments, the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, all other United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to exert the maximum effort to assist and protect refugee minors and to expedite the reunification of unaccompanied refugee minors with their families, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

3. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other United Nations organizations concerned to mobilize resources commensurate to the needs and interest of the unaccompanied refugee minors and for their reunification with their families;

4. Condemns all acts of exploiting the unaccompanied refugee minors, including their use as human shields in armed conflict and their recruitment for conscription in military service, and any other acts that endanger their safety and personal security;

5. Calls upon the Secretary-General, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Children's Fund and other United Nations organizations to mobilize adequate assistance to unaccompanied minors in the areas of relief, education, health, psychological rehabilitation, etc.;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

3/ Resolution 44/25.

4/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

5/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.